

Syllabus:
TECHNOLOGY AND DEMOCRACY
GEOG 804 (002) Wednesday 6-8:30 pm Saunders 219*
Instructor: Scott Kirsch, Department of Geography, Saunders Hall 306
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Overview

Are society's technological choices open to democratic participation? The graduate seminar and research workshop in TECHNOLOGY AND DEMOCRACY explores political dimensions of technological change. Through readings, seminar discussion, research presentations, and off-campus visits*, we will investigate science and technology as sets of social, cultural, and mechanical relations between nature and societies, and within societies. The goal of the course: to bring together a broad view of *democracy* – as a society with open and responsive institutions, uncensored education and free information – with an archaic, seventeenth-century view of *technology* as a *specialized treatise on the mechanical arts, or a study of human practices*. Or maybe not so archaic. The course is designed to raise questions about how research on human-nature-technology relations – writing technology – can and does contribute to more democratic relations of technology and technological change.

Format:

Experimental. There will be three main components: (1) survey and analysis of key literatures in democratic and political theory, social theory, science & technology studies, and geography. We will try to develop and expand theoretical frameworks for understanding the dynamics of knowledge, technology, and democracy; (2) a 'futures' section, which substantively engages with key issues of water, energy, environment and risk; and (3) a research component will include workshops on research practices and methods, interventions, and representational strategies in new media and cartography, and will encourage students to explore connections between course themes and their own research.

Requirements:

Reading and seminar participation	50%
Review project*	25%
Mapping project*	25%

Plan on reading -100 pp per week for regular seminars.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Beck, Ulrich. 2009. *World at Risk*. Cambridge: Polity. *Selections* on sale – UNC Bookstore.*

Latour, Bruno, and Weibel, Peter (eds). 2005. *Making Things Public: Atmospheres of Democracy*. Cambridge, Mass and London: ZKM/Center for Art and Media Karlsruhe and MIT Press. *Selections.** Marked down at Amazon.*

MORE KEY TEXTS:

Cloke, P. *et al.* 2004. *Practising Human Geography*. London: Sage. *Selections.*

Egan, Michael. 2007. *Barry Commoner and the Science of Survival*. MIT Press. *Selections.*

Featherstone, M. *et al.* (eds), 2006, *The New Encyclopedia Project. Theory, Culture & Society* 23, No. 2-3. *Selections.*

Feenberg, Andrew. 2002. *Transforming Technology: A Critical Theory Revisited*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. *Selections*

Feenberg, Andrew, and Alastair Hannay. 1995. *Technology and the Politics of Knowledge*. Indiana University Press. *Selections*

Provisional Schedule and Reading List*

- Jan 14 Course introduction – short meeting
- Jan 21 **Part I: Keywords**
Technology and Democracy
Andrew Feenberg, “Subversive rationalization: Technology, power, and democracy” in *Technology and the Politics of Knowledge*, 3-22.
Bruno Latour, “From realpolitik to dingpolitik or how to make things public,” *Making Things Public* (14-41)
Keywords:
 - Raymond Williams, “Democracy” *Keywords* (Oxford University Press, 1983), 93-98.
 - Raymond Williams, “Technology” *Keywords*, 315-316.
 - Clive Barnett, Editorial: Theorising democracy geographically. *Geoforum* 39(2008): 1637-1640
 - Celia Roberts and Adrian Mackenzie, “Science” *New Encyclopedia Project* (157-163).
 - Shiv Visvanathan, “Alternative science” *New Encyclopedia Project* (164-169).
 - Simon Schaffer, “Seeing Double how to make up a phantom body politic” *Making Things Public*, 196-202
 - *Leviathan* excerpt, *Making Things Public*, 246-247
- Jan 28 *Keywords II: Materialism and The Public Sphere*
Langdon Winner, “Citizen virtues in a technological order” in *Technology and the Politics of Knowledge* (65-84)
Steven Vogel, “New science, new nature: The Habermas-Marcuse debate revisited” in *Technology and the Politics of Knowledge*, 23-42.
Noortje Marres, “Issues spark a public into being: A key but often forgotten point of the Lippmann-Dewey debate” *Making Things Public* (208-217)
Noortje Marres, Richard Rogers, “Recipe for tracing the fate of issues and their publics on the web” *Making Things Public* (922-933)
Keywords:
 - ✳ Klaus Eder, “The public sphere” *New Encyclopedia Project* (607-616).
 - ✳ Kirsch, “Historical-geographical materialism” in N. Thrift and R. Kitchin, *International Encyclopedia of Human Geography* (2009)
- Feb 4 **Part II: Engaging Technology: Scientific Information Movement**
Technology and Critical Theory
 - ✳ Herbert Marcuse, “The individual in the great society” (1965), “Remarks on a redefinition of culture” (1965), pp 3-12, 13-31 in *The essential Marcuse*, eds A. Feenberg and W. Leiss (Boston: Beacon Press, 2007).
 - ✳ Andrew Feenberg, “The bias of technology” *Transforming Technology*, 63-88.*Technology and Oppositional Science*
 - ✳ Egan, “Introduction: the new apparatus”; “In the thunderclap’s wake” *Barry Commoner* 1-46.
 - ✳ Kirsch, “Geographies of Authority: Livermore, Cape Thompson, Area 10” *Proving Grounds* (Rutgers University Press, 2005), 78-118
- Feb 11 *Rights to Knowledge*
 - Egan, “Guarding the public” *Barry Commoner*, 47-78.
 - William Cuyler Sullivan, Jr., *Nuclear Democracy: A History of the Greater St. Louis Citizen’s Committee for Nuclear Information, 1957-1967*. Washington University in St. Louis, University College Occasional Papers No. 1. *Selections*.

- Kirsch, “Epitaph” *Proving Grounds*, 201-210.
- Beck, “Introduction: Staging global risk” *World at Risk*, (1-23)
- Claude Rosental, “Making science and technology results public: a sociology of demos” *Making Things Public*, 346-349.

- Feb 18 *Interventions – rethinking scientific information movements*
- Egan, “The “other” environmentalism”, *Barry Commoner*, 167-190.
 - Beck, “Relations of definition as relations of domination” *World at Risk*, 24-46
 - Alex Loftus, “Intervening in the environment of the everyday” *Geoforum* (in press doi:10.1016/j.geoforum.2008.04.005).
 - Michael Watts, “1968 and all that” *Progress in Human Geography* 25(2001): 157-188.
 - *case studies**
- Feb 25 NO CLASS {ASEH MEETING}
- Mar 4 **Part III: Workshop**
Methods I – Archive
- ✦ Cloke *et al.*, “Official Sources” “Imaginative Sources” [selections] in *Practising Human Geography*.
 - ✦ Mike Featherstone, “Archive” *New Encyclopedia Project*, 591-596.
- Projects*
- ✦ Peter Sloterdijk, Gesa Mueller von der Haegen, “Instant Democracy: The Pneumatic Parliament” *Making Things Public*, 952-957.
 - ✦ Nikolaus Hirsch, Michel Muller, “The Architectural Thing: The Making of ‘Making Things Public’” *Making Things Public*, 536-539.
 - ✦ http://www.bruno-latour.fr/expositions/002_parliament.html
 - Mike Featherstone & Couze Venn, “Problematizing Global Knowledge and the New Encyclopedia Project” *New Encyclopedia Project*, 1-20.
 - Tonya Davidson, Book review: *Making Things Public: Atmospheres of Democracy*. *Space and Culture* 9(2006): 326-328.
 - Gunhild Setten, “Encyclopaedic vision: Speculating on The Dictionary of Human Geography” *Geoforum* 39 (2008) 1097–1104 (and responses)
- Mar 11 NO CLASS (SPRING BREAK)
- Mar 18 *Methods II – Ethnography*
- ✦ Cloke *et al.*, “Talking to people” “Observing” [selections] in *Practising Human Geography*.
- Representational strategies: mapping and counter-mapping*
- ✦ Carbon Defense League, “MapHub: HEARD and MapMover” *Making Things Public*, 964-965.
 - ✦ *Case studies: mapping and open source**
 - ✦ 3Cs, *Disorientation Guide*, <http://www.countercartographies.org/>
- Mar 25 NO CLASS (AAG MEETINGS) (Yucca Mt. visit*)
- Apr 1 **Part IV: Futures**
Water
- ✦ Beck, “The ‘cosmopolitan moment’ of world risk society or: enforced Enlightenment” in *World at Risk*, 47-66.
 - ✦ Werner Krauss, “Coastal environment made public: notes from the field” *Making Things Public*, 398-401

- ✳ Wiebe E. Bijker, “The politics of water. A Dutch thing to keep the water out or not. *Making Things Public*, 512-529
- ✳ Jean-Pierre Le Bourhis, Water parliaments: some examples *Making Things Public* 482-485
- ✳ Martin Doyle, “Need for fixes can’t be ignored” *News & Observer* Published: Sun, May. 25, 2008, <http://www.newsobserver.com/news/q/story/1084596.html>
- ✳ ILARIA GIGLIOLI and ERIK SWYNGEDOUW, “Let’s Drink to the Great Thirst! Water and the Politics of Fractured Techno-natures in Sicily” *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* Volume 32.2 (2008): 392–414*

Apr 8

Energy and Environment

- ✳ Huber, M.T. Energizing historical materialism: Fossil fuels, space and the capitalist mode of production, *Geoforum* (2008), doi:10.1016/j.geoforum.2008.08.004
- ✳ (ex)President George W. Bush, *Report of the National Energy Policy Development Group* (2001 Selections and 2008 update)
- ✳ Anna Stanley, Citizenship and the production of landscape and knowledge in contemporary Canadian nuclear fuel waste management, *The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien* 52, no 1 (2008) 64–82
- ✳ Beck, “Global Public Sphere and Global Subpolitics or: How Real Is Catastrophic Climate Change?” *World at Risk*

Apr 15

Rethinking the State? Technology and Democracy redux

- ✳ Henri Lefebvre, “Political Sociology: Theory of the State” *The Sociology of Marx* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1982[1968]), 89-122.
- ✳ Neil Brenner and Stuart Elden, “State, Space, World: Lefebvre and the Survival of Capitalism” Introduction to H. Lefebvre (forthcoming) *State Space World*.
- ✳ Beck, “Dialectics of Modernity: How the Crises of Modernity Follow from the Triumphs of Modernity, *World at Risk*
- ✳ Malcolm Cutchin, John Dewey’s metaphysical ground-map and its ..., *Geoforum* 39 (2008) 1555–156

Apr 22

Mappings Project Presentations

* ‘probably’, ‘additional information coming’ or ‘to be announced’